

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakazawa *et al.* (US 5,319,719) [“Nakazawa”]. For at least the following reasons, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites a tomographic image processing method comprising “carrying out dynamic range compression processing on the image data so as to compress a high density range of the chest tomographic image, wherein the chest tomographic image includes a low density range that is unaffected by the compression of the high density range.” (claim 3 recites a similar feature).

Applicants submit that Nakazawa does not disclose or suggest at least the claimed compression of a high density range while not affecting a low density range as set forth in claims 1 and 3.

In the Advisory Action of April 3, 2006, the Examiner contends that he is entitled to the broadest reasonable interpretation to the language of the claims. (Advisory Action at page 3.) Although Applicants agree that the claim language should be given its broadest reasonable interpretation, Applicants respectfully remind the Examiner that the broadest reasonable interpretation “must also be consistent with the interpretation that those skilled in the art would reach.” (MPEP §2111.01 at page 2100-47 citing *In re Cortright*, 165 F.3d 1353, 1359 (Fed. Cir. 1999).)

Accordingly, when construing claim language in future office communications, Applicants request that the Examiner provide evidence, i.e., citation to the prior art, that the Examiner's "interpretation" of the claim language is consistent with that those skilled in the art would reach.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakazawa in view of Tsuchino *et al.* (US 5,493,622) [“Tsuchino”]. For at least the following reason, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Applicants submit that claims 2 and 4 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

The Examiner has rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakazawa in view of Wang *et al.* (US 6,424,730) [“Wang”]. For at least the following reason, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Because claim 5 recites features similar to those given above with respect to claim 1 and the Examiner's rejection of these features is similar to that given above with respect to claim 1, Applicants submit that claim 5 is patentable for at least reasons similar to those given above with respect to claim 1.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakazawa in view of Wang and Tsuchino. For at least the following reason, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Applicants submit that claims 6-9 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
Application No. 09/981,253

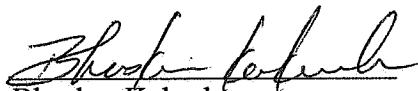
Attorney Docket No. Q66677

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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